

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 7418

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS ET US

SUBJECT: EPMG REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON THE DELIVERY OF
AIRCRAFT AND RADAR

1. ON JUNE 21 FONMIN KIFLE WODAJO AND DEFENSE MINISTER AYALEW MANDEFRO DISCUSSED WITH ME THE EPMG'S DESIRE TO EXPEDITE DELIVERIES OF F-5AS, THE TPS-43D RADAR, F-5ES AND HELICOPTERS. KIFLE HAD REQUESTED I MEET WITH HIM AND WITH MOD SAME DAY I RETURNED HERE BECAUSE HE THEN EXPECTED TO DEPART ADDIS ON JUNE 22 OR JUNE 23 (TRIP SUBSEQUENTLY CANCELED).

2. KIFLE LED OFF BY STATING THAT THE EPMG, ALTHOUGH NOT ENTIRELY SATISFIED BY THE INFORMATION RECENTLY CONVEYED TO IT CONCERNING DELIVERY DATES ON F-5ES (ADDIS 7249 AND ADDIS 7305), HAD FOUND THIS NEWS "ENCOURAGING". NEVERTHELESS IT CONFRONTS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION BECAUSE OF SOMALIA AND NEEDS TO HAVE ITS FORCES AT COMBAT READINESS DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS. THE DIRG THEREFORE CONSIDERS IT VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE USG INDICATE PRECISE DATES FOR THE DELIVERY OF F-5AS AND THE TPS-43D RADAR. (COMMENT: RADAR MATTER WAS SUBJECT OF LENGTHY BUT CONFUSED DISCUSSION, WHICH WILL NEED CLARIFYING FOLLOW-UP BY CHMAAG BEFORE WE CAN REPORT ACCURATELY WHAT EPMG HAS IN MIND. IN SUMMARY, EPMG SEEMS TO WANT TO REVIVE POSSIBILITY OF IMMEDIATE TRAINING AND EARLY DELIVERY OF RADAR ITSELF. HOWEVER, THE QUESTIONS THE TWO MINISTERS ASKED, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND SOME OF THEIR ASSERTIONS, ARE BASED ON MISUNDERSTANDINGS

(PERHAPS DELIBERATE) OF PROBLEMS AND LEAD TIMES INVOLVED. CHMAAG, WHO HAS ALREADY GIVEN MOD LENGTHY EXPLANATIONS OF VARIOUS FACTORS, WILL ASCERTAIN MORE PRECISELY WHAT MOD WANTS, WITHIN LIMITS OF U.S. CAPABILITIES ALREADY WELL KNOWN TO WORKING LEVELS OF EPMG.)

3. IN THE ENSUING DISCUSSION I EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR THE EPMG'S DESIRE TO BOTAIN MORE PRECISE DATA REGARDING THE DELIVERY OF F-5AS AND SAID THAT I THOUGHT WE WERE VERY CLOSE TO THE TIME WHEN SUCH INFORMATION WOULD BE AVAILABLE. IN FACT, I HOPED INFORMATION ABOUT AN EXPEDITED DELIVERY DATE COULD BE CONVEYED TO THE EPMG DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 21 - JUNE 26, AND IF NOT, VERY SOON THEREAFTER. AS FOR THE F-5ES, PRECISE INFORMATION HAD ALREADY BEEN CONVEYED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON THIS SUBJECT BY CHARGE WYMAN.

4. KIFLE REMARKED AT THIS POINT THAT THE F-5ES WOULD NOT ARRIVE IN TIME FOR THE EMERGENCY THIS SUMMER AND THAT IT WAS THEREFORE ALL THE MORE NECESSAYR TO HAVE A DATE FOR THE DELIVERY OF F-5AS. THE DIRG HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO SEEK TO OBTAIN THIS DATA, WHICH WOULD GREATLY FACILITATE EPMG PLANNING AND DECISIONS, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE VERY SMALL NUMBER OF HIGHLY TRAINED AVIATION PERSONNEL. MINISTER OF DEFENSE AYALEW ADDED THAT HE WAS MUCH INTERESTED IN ASCERTAINING WHEN DELIVERY COULD BE MADE OF THE HELICOPTERS WHICH WERE FUNDED IN THE FY 74 PROGRAM. COL. SIGLER HAD INDICATED DURING HIS RECENT VISIT HERE THAT EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO EXPEDITE DELIVERY OF THESE HELICOPTERS.

5. I SAID THAT I HAD CAREFULLY INVESTIGATED THE AVAILABILITY OF THE HELICOPTERS DURING MY RECENT CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON AND HAD DISCOVERED NO POSSIBILITY OF DELIVERING NEW HELICOPTERS UNTIL 1976, FROM NEW PRODUCTION HOWEVER, THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WOULD STILL TRY TO FIND SOME WAY OF DELIVERING USED HELICOPTERS EARLIER THAN THAT, BUT I COULD NOT BE OPTIMISTIC.

6. WHEN AYALEW TURNED TO THE SUBJECT OF F-5ES, I POINTED OUT THAT THIS SUBJECT HAD BEEN VERY CAREFULLY EXAMINED RECENTLY AND THAT THERE WERE NO USED F-5ES AVAILABLE SUITABLE FOR DELIVERY TO ETHIOPIA. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE NECESSARY TO WAIT FOR F-5ES COMING OFF THE PRODUCTION LINE, AND THE DATES OF WHICH THE EPMG

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HAD ALREADY BEEN NOTIFIED REPRESENTED THE BEST WE CAN DO. AS FOR THE FIRST DELIVERY OF F-5ES IN LATE NOVEMBER, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THEY WOULD ARRIVE HERE BEFORE COMPLETION OF THE NECESSARY PILOT TRAINING.

7. IN CONCLUSION KIFLE SAID THAT THE TIMING OF F-5A DELIVERIES WAS MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL AND THAT THE EPMG WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION THIS POINT WITHIN THE NEXT TEN DAYS.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: I URGE THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO PROVIDE ME WITH FIRM INFORMATION THIS WEEK REGARDING DELIVERY DATES FOR F-5AS.

9. WHEN I LEFT WASHINGTON LAST WEEK, TWO PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATIONS WERE IN THE WHITE HOUSE AWAITING SIGNATURE - ONE ON F-5AS AND ONE ON THE \$25 MILLION CREDIT. THE FORMER IS NECESSARY BEFORE WE CAN FIRM UP PLANS FOR DELIVERY OF F-5AS FROM IRAN AND IS THEREFORE VERY URGENT. THE LATTER HAS BEEN HANGING FIRE IN WASHINGTON FOR MORE THAN THREE MONTHS. I STRONGLY URGE THAT BOTH BE SIGNED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
HUMMEL

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